

opc Bulletin

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB OF AMERICA, NEW YORK, NY • MAY 2004

Journalists Honored for Outstanding Work

By Shelley Neumeier

It was an evening of gripping stories—and the stories behind those stories.

The OPC honored journalists in 21 different award categories at a gala dinner at the Grand Hyatt hotel in New York. *Time* magazine writer Michael Weisskopf, who lost his hand in a grenade attack in Iraq, began the evening by lighting a candle in honor of slain journalists, an OPC tradition.

Then the awards began. As the writers, photographers and producers accepted their prizes from the evening's master of ceremonies, PBS talk show host Charlie Rose, they in turn honored those who enabled them to do their work. They honored the fixers, the drivers and the translators who helped them get their stories; they honored the families who took them in and shared their lives.

Anthony Shadid, *The Washington Post* writer who won the Hal Boyle award for "The Soul of Iraq: From War to Resistance and Rebirth," spoke of an Iraqi father who faced an unthinkable dilemma: killing his own son, a U.S. informer, or being killed himself by villagers. He chose the former.

Carolyn Cole of the *Los Angeles Times* won the Robert Capa Gold Medal for photography for a second year in a row, this year for her coverage of Iraq

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Thomas L. Friedman accepts the President's Award from Alexis Gelber.

MICHAEL DAMES

Peace Kills: P.J. O'Rourke on Foreign Policy

by Sonya K. Fry

In his new book "Peace Kills: America's Fun New Imperialism" (Atlantic Monthly Press, June 2004), satirist P.J. O'Rourke turns his attention to global affairs, examining America's inability to get a handle on international issues. "Americans would like to ignore foreign policy," he writes. "Our previous attempts at isolationism were successful. Unfortunately, they were successful for Hitler's Germany and Tojo's Japan....Americans find foreign policy confusing. We are perplexed by the subtle tactics and complex strategies of the Great Game. America's great game

is pulling the levers on the slot machines in Las Vegas. We can't figure out what the goal of American foreign policy is supposed to be."

From there, O'Rourke sets off around the globe in an effort explain why Americans should care. With his well-honed use of comedy and insight, he tramps across Egypt, Israel, Kosovo, Kuwait, Iraq and Iwo Jima—with detours to Washington in the aftermath of 9/11 and again in the build up to the Iraq war.

A long-time OPC member, O'Rourke is the best-selling author of ten previous books, including "Eat the Rich," "Parliament of Whores," and "All the Trouble in the World." Perhaps what sets O'Rourke apart from other journalists is his ability to find absurdity in just about everything that takes place on the world

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P.J. O'Rourke

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OPC Launches Campaign to Free World's Jailed Journalists

By Larry Martz and Norman A. Schorr

The Overseas Press Club has launched a campaign to free 193 journalists from the jails of 29 countries around the world.

The journalists have been incarcerated for up to 30 years already, and have been sentenced to terms as long as life imprisonment. They are charged with offenses ranging from disclosures of state secrets to insulting high officials, or exposing corruption of local authorities. In all cases, the OPC says, the prisoners were prosecuted mainly for doing their jobs as journalists.

The OPC's newly published booklet, "Journalists in Jail—and How to Help Them," documents the circumstances of each imprisoned journalist's case. The booklet also lists the names and addresses of the appropriate officials of each country to protest the arrests and appeal for the journalists' release. The publication was distributed at the annual awards dinner in April and sent to all OPC members.

"Not enough journalists are honored for their work, but all too many are thrown into jail for it," the booklet contends, asking readers to originate appeals.

"Writing such letters may seem to be an exercise in futility," the booklet says. "But it is an important way to help jailed journalists, and it is effective." Imprisoned journalists who have been

freed report that such letters keep their cases alive and improve their treatment in prison.

"The more letters, the better," urges the booklet. "If you can write just one letter a week, it will add measurably to the pressure on abusive governments."

China, with 41 journalists behind bars at last count, leads the list of governments holding media prisoners. Cuba imprisons 33, Eritrea 29, Myanmar (formerly Burma) 15, Iran 11, and Vietnam, 10.

Some examples of the journalists included in the report:

Central African Republic: Jude Zosse, publisher of the daily *L'Hirondelle* newspaper, was sentenced March 12, 2004 to six months in prison for "insulting the head of state." The disputed article told about the country's president embezzling a large portion of state funds for personal use.

Iran: Akbar Ganji, an investigative journalist with the daily *Sobh-e-Emrooz*, is serving a six-year sentence handed down in July 2001 for "harming national security and spreading propaganda against the Islamic system." His book, "Dungeon of Ghosts," implicated former Iranian premier Rafsanjani in the country's 1996 "serial murders."

Turkey: Memek Horuz, editor-in-chief of two newspapers, was sentenced

in June 2003 to 15 years in prison. The charges were based on interviews he had with two members of the illegal Marxist-Leninist Communist Party.

Pakistan: Rehmat Shah Afridi, editor-in-chief of the English-language newspaper *The Frontier Post*, was sentenced to death in June 2001. He was charged with drug smuggling. His colleagues say that he was framed for reporting on corruption in the US-financed anti-narcotics forces in Peshawar.

Uzbekistan: Muhammed Bekjanov and Yusuf Ruzimuradov, editors of the opposition newspaper, *Erk*, were sentenced to 14 to 15 years respectively, for publishing a banned newspaper, slandering the president, and attempting to overthrow the government.

The OPC's Freedom of the Press Committee compiled the booklet by coordinating lists and reports of imprisoned journalists issued by press freedom groups around the world, including International PEN, the Committee to Protect Journalists, Amnesty International, International Press Institute and Reporters Without Borders.

The OPC Committee, which has previously protested the individual cases, appealed again on May 3—World Press Freedom Day—to the countries holding the journalists in jail.

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Middle East—Covering the Coverage

by Al Kaff

"Baudas (Baghdad) is a large city, heretofore the residence of the Calif or Pontiff of all the Saracens....faithful Christians [were] so abhorred by this Calif. From the time of his accession in 1225, his daily thoughts were employed on the means of converting to his religion those who resided within his dominions, or, upon their refusal, in forming preferences for putting them to death."

"The Travels of Marco Polo,"
edited by Manuel Komroff, 1926
March 24

The first David Bloom Award for excellence in enterprising reporting was awarded to "Nightline," an ABC News program anchored by Ted Koppel. The award was named for the NBC News correspondent who collapsed and died last year after suffering a blood clot in his lungs while covering the U.S. Army's Third Infantry Division's advance on Baghdad. The award was presented in Washington at the 60th annual dinner of the Radio and Television Correspondents Association. At the dinner Bloom's widow, Melanie, read an e-mail that David sent from Iraq to their three daughters shortly before his death.

March 25

Ashleigh Banfield, 36, who broadcast from Afghanistan and Pakistan during the war against the Taliban, was dropped from MSNBC because "regrettably, we were unable to agree on a new assignment for her," a NBC News spokeswoman told Lloyd Grove of the New York *Daily News*. Grove wrote: "The native Canadian was a controversial figure at NBC, where detractors spread rumors of diva-like behavior and sniped at her supposed journalists deficiencies."



Ashleigh Banfield

March 28

Rioting and gun battles broke out in Iraq after occupation authorities shut down *Al Hawza*, a radical Shiite weekly, on charges it printed lies that incited violence. Thousands of Iraqis protested the closing, shouting "No, no, America!" and "Where is democracy now?" The newspaper was the official mouthpiece for radical Shiite cleric Moktada al-Sadr, 31. After the paper closed, Sadr inspired his



A front page of *Al Hawza* at a protest against the paper's closing

followers in several cities to rise up against the U.S.-led coalition, saying: "America has shown its evil intentions, and the Iraqi people can not accept it. They must defend their rights by any means they see fit." Battles followed. Sadr's militia rolled over Iraqi security forces in several cities. At least 46 American troops, two other coalition soldiers and more than 600 Iraqis were killed in the fighting, the bloodiest week since the war started.

The order padlocking *Al Hawza* was contained in a letter signed by L. Paul Bremmer III, the U.S. administrator in Iraq. His letter cited what U.S. officials called several false reports by the newspaper including a claim that an American missile, not a car bomb, killed more than 50 Iraqi police recruits in February. Tom Rosenthal, vice chairman of the Washington-based Committee of Concerned Journalists, commented: "If you're trying to promote democracy in a country that has never had it, you have to lead by example. I'm not in Iraq. But it's hard for me to see how the suppression of information, even false information, is going to help our cause."

March 29

Mariane Pearl filed a claim with the U.S. government for compensation for the murder of her husband, *Wall Street Journal* reporter Daniel Pearl. He was beheaded in Pakistan in 2002 by Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, an Al Qaeda com-



Mariane Pearl with lawyer Robert S. Kelner

mander and alleged mastermind of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. But the September 11th Compensation Fund rejected her claim, because Daniel was not killed in the Sept. 11 attacks. Mariane, an honorary OPC member, appealed and asked Congress to draft a new law that would grant eligibility to her and her son Adam, now almost 2. She and her lawyer, Robert S. Kelner, who is representing her without fee, argue that the fund should apply to all American families victimized by Al Qaeda. Mariane told David W. Chen of *The New York Times* that income from her memoir, "A Mighty Heart: The Brave Life and Death of My Husband, Danny Pearl," provided enough income to live in New York for the short term. But she has few long-term options to replace her husband's salary, about \$100,000 a year.

◆

The U.S. military in Iraq accepted responsibility for the March gunshot deaths of two Iraqi journalists at an army roadblock, but said the American soldiers fired in self defense. In a statement, a senior military official said eight soldiers opened fire on a car that was speeding toward the roadblock, and four to six bullets accidentally hit the journalists who were in a sport utility vehicle about 100 yards behind the speeding car. Killed were cameraman Ali Abdul Aziz, 34, and reporter Ali al-Khatib, 31, of Al Arabiya, a satellite news channel based in Dubai (*April Bulletin*).

March 30

The U.S.-led Coalition Provisional Authority in Iraq signed a \$5.6 million
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P.J. O'ROURKE

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stage. The last time he appeared before an OPC audience was in 1993 with the risky title "Somalia: The Good, The Bad and the Absurd." The event is still talked about as one of the best and most amusing programs ever presented by the OPC.

The OPC Book Night will be held on Thursday, June 10 with a reception at 5:30pm and the talk at 6:15pm. This program is likely to be sold out so please make reservations by calling the OPC office at 212-626-9220. Books will be available for sale and signing.

French Makes Impassioned Plea for Africa

By Shelley Neumeier

In some ways, Howard French didn't have a choice about writing "A Continent for the Taking: The Tragedy and Hope of Africa" (Alfred A. Knopf, 2004). The book chronicles some of the troubles of Africa's recent past, particularly the devastating war in what was then called Zaire. "I couldn't live with myself if I didn't wrestle with it and attempt to bring it to the world's attention," French said at a recent OPC book night. "This is about the failure of mankind."

French has had a long relationship with the continent, particularly with West Africa. As he was heading off to college in 1975, his father, a doctor, took a job with the World Health Organization in Abidjan, the capital of the Ivory Coast. French spent summers with his family, and then moved there after college. Initially, he had no interest in journalism—he thought he'd try to write short stories, maybe a novel—but he began freelancing, soon filling in for *The Washington Post* bureau chief. "What seized me," he said, "was the idea that people would pay me to go somewhere and write about it." After his first son was born, he decided to get a full time job, and landed with *The New York Times* at the metro desk in New York.

French was desperate for a foreign posting. *The Times* wanted to send him back to Africa, but French resisted. "It was not that I thought poorly of Africa—but I knew that they did," he said. He was worried that his stories would get little play, and besides, he wanted to go somewhere new. *The Times* offered him the Caribbean post, and he felt he couldn't say no. Midway through his time there, Jean-Bertrand Aristide was first elected and then overthrown—making Haiti one of the biggest foreign stories of the year. French covered it intensely, and when his time was finished, he was offered Africa once again.

This time, French accepted and he and his family returned to Abidjan. After about a year, the war to overthrow long-time Zaire strongman Mobutu Sese Seko began. Once again, French, who won an OPC award for his coverage of Mobutu's downfall, was in the middle of a major international news story.

At first, the official story—the one accepted by Washington and the UN, and reported by the international press — was



Howard French, *The New York Times*; Julia Crawford, Committee to Protect Journalists and Meital HersHKovitz, winner of a 2003 OPC Foundation Scholarship.

that an obscure ethnic group, fed up with being pushed around, was behind the uprising. Something about that story, though, didn't seem right to French. It didn't make sense to him when he saw young rebels kitted out with slick gear and high-tech weaponry. "What was really happening," he said, "was the invasion of Zaire by Rwanda, led by the post-genocide Tutsi government." The war that followed resulted in the largest death toll of any conflict since World War II. "What ensued was a campaign of destruction and a looting of resources, resulting in the deaths of 3.3 million people," said French.

Now, seven years later, French's account of the war is widely accepted, but at the time, it defied conventional wisdom. "The international press never reflected on the gravity of what was going on," he said. Even now, some people question the number of dead. "Even if that number were halved," said French, "it doesn't make me feel much better." The massive human devastation was largely what compelled him to write the book. "I felt I needed to bear witness," he said. "It needs to be felt and thought about, and lessons learned."

French read a chilling passage about a visit to a refugee camp in Tingi-Tingi. There, he encountered Hutu refugees—many of whom were "notionally associated with the Rwandan genocide." At the same time, they themselves were "almost certainly going to die." And indeed, days after French's visit, rebels attacked the camp, slaughtering thousands of people. The dead were buried in mass graves,

which were kept off limits to the international community by the Rwandan-backed president, Laurent Kabila.

French harshly criticizes the U.S. government, multinational corporations, international lending agencies, and the press for their tragic inattention to Africa. Members of the Clinton administration, he says, weren't even allowed to use the term 'genocide' as hundreds of thousands were dying in Rwanda and later Zaire, because to do so would have eliminated any excuse for inaction. Bush was elected saying that Africa held no "vital" interests for the US—and yet, French says, any quarter of Africa—the North, South, East or West—alone had more trade with the U.S. than the entire former Soviet Union. "We need a lot of things that Africa produces," said French. "And we can get them without paying anything."

"What's wrong with us?" he asked. "What can we do to change this?"

And the 'hope' in the book's subtitle? French acknowledges that the book is heavier on tragedy than hope, but says there are some reasons for optimism. He cites the continent's cultural resilience, despite decades of war, brutality, and oppression, as well as recent democratic advances, particularly in places like Mali. He also thinks that simply focusing the world's attention on Africa—as he attempts to do in his book—could improve the situation. "We need to re-imagine the way we think of Africa, and get it out of the cellars of our imaginations," French said. "We need to think about them as humans."

SONYA K. FREY

AWARDS DINNER

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and Liberia. She told of an Iraqi family who put themselves at risk by letting her into their home, and of a Liberian woman who took in 75 orphans who had lost their parents in that country's brutal conflict.

Pakistani journalist Sharmeen Obaid spoke of how the Discovery-Times Channel took a chance on her and her colleagues, sending them to Pakistan despite their inexperience, and showing patience when their first batch of tapes arrived without any audio. Because the company took that risk, the team was able to tell the stories of "Terror's Children"—Afghan children who had lost their parents and their siblings, who struggled in garbage dumps and refugee camps, and still summoned the strength to survive. The documentary won the Carl Spielvogel award for best international reporting in the broadcast media showing concern for the human condition.

Daniel Bergner, who won the Joe & Laurie Dine Award for his book, "In the Land of Magic Soldiers: A Story of White and Black in West Africa," talked of a father who had both his hands hacked off by soldiers and a boy who was a child of such soldiers. He ended his acceptance speech with a short prayer that he had learnt from a missionary: "Lord, give me a heart that breaks."

Towards the end of the evening, keynote speaker Thomas Friedman of *The New York Times* shared his own stories. Friedman, who has won two OPC awards as well as three Pulitzer prizes, began with the story a young woman who managed to land a rare interview with Wal-Mart founder Sam Walton.

"What is the key to your success," she asked Walton.

"Making good decisions," he answered.

"And how do you make good decisions," she asked.

"By experience," Walton replied.

"And how do you get that experience," the young woman continued.

"By making bad decisions."

The same applies to journalism, Friedman said. "Experience is what you get from not having it when you need it," he said.

Friedman got his start in journalism in London, when he was walking down the street with his then-girlfriend (and now wife) and saw a tabloid with a headline

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Michael Weisskopf of Time lights the candle in honor of slain journalists.



Charlie Rose with Carolyn Cole, Robert Capa Award winner, and her mother.



A meeting of Russians: Yuri Kozyrev, photojournalist for Time, who won the Olivier Rebbot Award, speaks to Natalya Merkulova-Shindyaeva, who received the Artyom Borovik Award.

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL DAMES

2003 AWARDS AND WINNERS

HAL BOYLE AWARD

Best newspaper or wire service reporting from abroad

ANTHONY SHADID
The Washington Post

"The Soul of Iraq: From War to Resistance and Rebirth"

CITATIONS:

Dan Murphy

The Christian Science Monitor

"How Al Qaeda Lit the Bali Fuse"

David Zucchino

Los Angeles Times

"Thunder in Iraq"

The Wall Street Journal Staff

The Wall Street Journal

"SARS: A Killer's Global Reach"

BOB CONSIDINE AWARD

Best newspaper or wire service interpretation of international affairs

JOBY WARRICK

The Washington Post

"Weapons Proliferation and the Gray Zone"

CITATIONS:

The Boston Globe Staff

"Lives Lost: Global Health Crisis"

Steven Lee Myers

The New York Times

"In the Field: Third Infantry Division"

ROBERT CAPA GOLD MEDAL AWARD

Best published photographic reporting from abroad requiring exceptional courage and enterprise

CAROLYN COLE

Los Angeles Times

"Covering Conflict: Iraq and Liberia"

CITATIONS:

Christopher Anderson VII for

U.S. News & World Report

"The Road to Baghdad"

Gary Knight VII for

Newsweek

"The Battle for Diyala Bridge"

OLIVIER REBBOT AWARD

Best photographic reporting from abroad in magazines and books

LI ZHENSHENG and ROBERT

PLEDGE

Contact Press Images / Phaidon

"Red-Color News Soldier:

A Chinese Photographer's Odyssey

Through the Cultural Revolution"

— and —

YURI KOZYREV

Time

"The Iraq War"

CITATION:

Teru Kuwayama

Corbis for Outside

"High Altitude Warfare on Siachen

Glacier"

JOHN FABER AWARD

Best photographic reporting from abroad in newspapers and wire services

CHRIS HONDROS

Getty Images News Service

"Chaos Enveloping: Liberia's Deadly Summer"

CITATION:

The New York Times Photographers

"The War in Iraq"

FEATURE PHOTOGRAPHY AWARD

Best feature photography published in any medium on an international theme

ALEX MAJOLI

Magnum Photos for Newsweek

"Wars Without End: The Congo"

CITATIONS:

Rodrigo Abd

Associated Press

"Guatemala Gangs"

Jahi Chikwendiu

The Washington Post

"Karbala Jail"

LOWELL THOMAS AWARD

Best radio news or interpretation of international affairs

JEB SHARP

PRI's The World: BBC World

Service, Public Radio International,

WGBH Radio Boston

"Iraq History Series"

CITATION:

Susan Burton and Hyder Akbar

WBEZ—Chicago Public Radio

"This American Life: Teenage

Embed"

DAVID KAPLAN AWARD

Best TV spot news reporting from abroad

NIC ROBERTSON

CNN

"Anatomy of a Raid"

CITATION:

Mike Cerre

ABC News—Nightline

"Reports on Marine Unit Fox 2-5"

EDWARD R. MURROW AWARD

Best TV interpretation or documentary on international affairs

SCOTT BRONSTEIN,

MICHAEL DAVIE, NEIL BARRETT,

DAVID ROYLE

National Geographic Television

and Film

Ultimate Explorer for MSNBC

"Liberia: American Dream?"

CITATION:

Maria Ressa and Ken Shiffman

CNN Presents

"Seeds of Terror"

ED CUNNINGHAM AWARD

Best magazine reporting from abroad

GEORGE PACKER

The New Yorker

"War After the War"

CITATIONS:

Brian Bennett, Michael Ware,

Michael Weisskopf

Time

"Reports from Iraq"

Tom O'Neill

National Geographic

"Untouchable"

THOMAS NAST AWARD

Best cartoons on international affairs

TOM TOLES

The Washington Post

CITATIONS:

Kevin (KAL) Kallaugher

The Baltimore Sun

Michael Ramirez

Los Angeles Times

MORTON FRANK AWARD

Best business reporting from abroad in magazines

DAVID MCCLINTICK

Institutional Investor

"Inside the Credit Lyonnais Scandal"

CITATION:

Peter Engardio, Manjeet Kripalani,

Aaron Bernstein

BusinessWeek

"Is Your Job Next?" and

"The Rise of India"

MALCOLM FORBES AWARD

Best business reporting from abroad in newspapers or wire services

ALESSANDRA GALLONI, CARRICK

MOLLENKAMP,

DAVID REILLY

The Wall Street Journal

"Spilled Milk: The Fall of Parmalat"

CITATION:

Joseph Kahn

The New York Times

"The World's Sweatshop"

CORNELIUS RYAN AWARD

Best non-fiction book on international affairs

MILT BEARDEN and JAMES RISEN

Random House

"The Main Enemy: The Inside Story

of the CIA's Final Showdown with

the KGB"

CITATION:

Lynne Olson and Stanley Cloud

Alfred A. Knopf

"A Question of Honor: The

Kosciuszko Squadron"

MADLINE DANE ROSS AWARD

Best international reporting in the print medium showing a concern for the human condition

GEORGE PACKER

The New Yorker

"The Children of Freetown"

CITATION:

Sheri Fink, MD

PublicAffairs

"War Hospital: A True Story of

Surgery and Survival"

CARL SPIELVOGEL AWARD

Best international reporting in the broadcast media showing a concern for the human condition

SHARMEEN OBAID, MOHAMMED

NAQVI, JAY KEUPER

Discovery Times Channel

"Terror's Children"

CITATION:

The Oprah Winfrey Show

Harpo Productions

"Christmas Kindness"

JOE and LAURIE DINE AWARD

Best international reporting in a print medium dealing with human rights

DANIEL BERGNER

Farrar, Straus and Giroux

"In the Land of Magic Soldiers:

A Story of White and Black in West

Africa"

CITATIONS:

Samantha Power

The New Yorker

"The AIDS Rebel"

Cam Simpson, Flynn McRoberts,

Liz Sly

Chicago Tribune

"Tossed Out of America"

ERIC and AMY BURGER AWARD

Best international reporting in the broadcast media dealing with human rights

LIVIU TIPURITA, ANDREW SMITH,

JENNIFER HYDE, DAVID HENSHAW,

SID BEDINGFIELD

CNN Productions / Hardcash

Productions

"Easy Prey: Inside the Child Sex

Trade"

WHITMAN BASSOW AWARD

Best reporting in any medium on international environmental issues

TIM COLLIE and MIKE STOCKER

South Florida Sun-Sentinel

"Haiti: The Eroding Nation"

CITATIONS:

Ann Imse

Rocky Mountain News

"Russia's Rocky Flats"

Tom Knudson

The Sacramento Bee

"State of Denial: How California's

Decisions Affect the World's

Environment"

ROBERT SPIERS BENJAMIN AWARD

Best reporting in any medium on Latin America

SUSAN FERRISS

Cox News Service

"Broken Promises: How Economic

Reforms Have Failed Mexico"

CITATION:

Alma Guillermoprieto

The New Yorker

"A Hundred Women"

ARTYOM BOROVIK AWARD

For outstanding reporting by a Russian journalist who displays

courage, insight, balanced yet

aggressive reporting, and

independence of thought

NATALYA MERKULOVA-

SHINDYAEVA

Creative Group KA-Film

for TV Angara

"The Cage"

CITATION:

Timur Aliev

Moskovsky Komsomolets,

The Moscow Times

Russian Courier

"Contemporary Chechnya"

AWARDS DINNER

(Continued from Page 5)

about Jimmy Carter's promise to fire Henry Kissinger if elected. Friedman, struck by the irony of a presidential candidate appealing to Jewish voters by pledging to fire the first Jewish secretary of state, went home and wrote an Op-Ed for no one in particular. Through a connection, the *Des Moines Register* picked it up and paid him \$50 for it. Friedman thought it was the "coolest thing in the world." "I had an idea, I wrote it down—someone paid me \$50 for it," he said. "I was hooked."

Friedman soon got a job with UPI, which sent him to Beirut when he was just 23. After two and a half years, *The New York Times* hired him, and he has been with the paper ever since. He learned valuable lessons in Beirut, including the importance of listening.

Listen poorly and things can go terribly wrong: Friedman told of a misunderstanding that resulted in an important Israeli cabinet minister being referred to as a "Bedouin" instead of the "veteran" politician that he was.

Listen well and you'll hear the most amazing things. "People are starved to tell their stories," he said.

Listening is tied to what Friedman considers the "thing that can't be taught in journalism." If you have this quality, "you'll be fine," Friedman said. "If you don't, you'll have problems."

The key? "You have to like people," said Friedman. "You have to enjoy hearing the music of their lives."

Friedman concluded by saying that some day he hopes to see journalists receive awards for stories that tell not of war and tragedy—as so many of the winning stories did—but rather for stories about people who opt for peace and democracy.



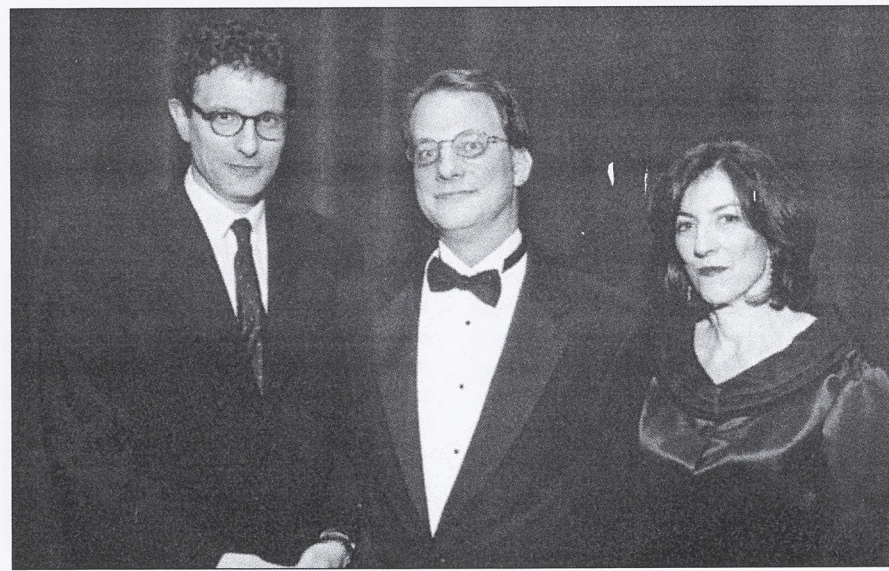
Michael Elliott of *Time* and Executive Editor of *Dateline* magazine with Gelber.



Tom Friedman, Sonya Fry and Mariane Pearl.



The happy winning team from *National Geographic Television and Film*.



George Packer (center), who won two OPC awards, with David Remnick, editor of *The New Yorker* and Alexis Gelber.

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL DAVIES



PEOPLE...with Al Kaff

GORDON CURRIE/BILL SHINN

BEIJING: After U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney spoke to students at Shanghai's Fudan University in April, the official *People's Daily* distributed a transcript of his speech to Xinhua (the New China News Agency), other newspapers and Web sites in China. But *People's Daily* struck out Cheney's references to political freedom, Taiwan, North Korea and other subjects that propaganda officials considered sensitive. China's censors apparently favor neither U.S. political party. Last year, a state-owned publisher deleted from Hillary Rodham Clinton's autobiography, "Living History," commentary that the government deemed offensive (February *Bulletin*).

CHICAGO: In 1996 Yutaka Yoshizawa, as Director of the Japan Information Center in New York City, was an active member of the OPC. He subsequently went onto posts in Pretoria and Beijing. Recently he informed the OPC that he is returning to the U.S. this May as the Consul-General of the Chicago office.



Yutaka Yoshizawa

HONG KONG: Mike (Gonzo) Gonzalez, chief of the *Asian Wall Street Journal's* editorial page, is a new member of the board of the Foreign Correspondents' Club. He succeeded **Tom Crampton** of *The New York Times*, who was reassigned to New York (April *Bulletin*).

HOUSTON, Texas: Two former correspondents in Latin America are organizing Meximerica Media to create Spanish-language newspapers in several Texas cities and later in other West and Southwest states where Mexican-Americans live. Leading the new venture are **Edward Schumacher**, a former managing editor of *The Wall Street Journal Americas* and a former *New York Times* correspondent in Madrid and Buenos Aires; and **Jonathan Friedland**, until recently the *WSJ* Los Angeles

Bureau chief and a former correspondent in Buenos Aires and Mexico City.

LONDON: Michael Grade, 61, became chairman of BBC in May. He succeeded **Gavyn Davies**, who resigned



Michael Grade

in January after an independent report said BBC failed to respond adequately to complaints about its discredited radio reports on the government's use of intelligence in justifying Britain's participation in the Iraq war (March *Bulletin*). The new chairman was head of Channel 4, one of BBC's main non-cable commercial competitors, from 1988-1997. After leaving Channel 4, Grade was chairman of Pinewood-Shepperton Limited, which owns two major film studios, and since January 2002 chairman of Camelot, which runs the national lottery.

OPC member **Dinah Lee Küng** is one of 20 novelists nominated for this year's Orange Prize for Fiction awarded to women authors of any nationality whose books were published in the United Kingdom. In Küng's "A Visit from Voltaire" [London: Peter Halban Publishers] (April 2003 *Bulletin*), Voltaire haunts her Swiss farmhouse, monopolizes her laptop and bankrupts her credit cards. Dinah, who now lives outside Geneva, was a *BusinessWeek* bureau chief in Hong Kong. She won a 1991 OPC award and was a co-chair of the Club's Freedom of the Press Committee.

Prince Charles' office banned *The Sun* from appearing at official photo opportunities after the paper published photographs of his eldest son, Prince William, with Kate Middleton on a Swiss ski slope. *The Sun* described the young woman as William's girlfriend. British newspapers had kept to an agree-



Kate Middleton

ment to use only photographs of Charles' sons taken at officially sanctioned photo opportunities. But *The Sun* said, "One of William's girlfriends could become queen one day. Her subjects will be entitled to know all about her."

MANILA: Former Philippine President Corazon C. (Cory) Aquino arranged a memorial funeral mass for OPC member **Sandra Burton**, 62, who died in February in her Bali home, apparently after falling and hitting her head (April *Bulletin*). Burton was an eyewitness to the 1983 assassination of Cory's husband, Benigno S. (Nino) Aquino Jr. He was shot and killed at Manila International Airport moments after he left the plane that returned him to the Philippines, where he expected to challenge then President Ferdinand E. Marcos.



The Hong Kong FCC remembers Burton.

In the eulogy he delivered at the mass, **Robert Delfs** described Sandy as "my companion and soul mate." They met in Hong Kong more than 22 years ago when she was Southeast Asia bureau chief for *Time*, and he was a correspondent for the weekly *Far Eastern Economic Review*. In his eulogy, Delfs said: "As Sandra saw the quality of journalism deteriorating around her, she fought all the harder to maintain the standards of truth and accuracy in her profession." Sandra was remembered in the cover article in the February/March issue of the Hong Kong Foreign Correspondents' Club's magazine. Vaudine England wrote: "Sandy believed emphatically in being a witness to history in the making. Even in semi-

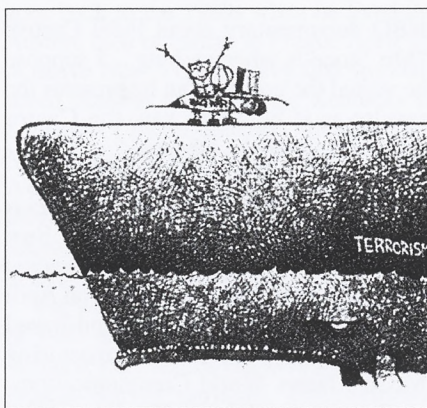
retirement, she scoured newspapers and the net daily."

McLEAN, Virginia: New editors were appointed at *USA Today* in April after **Karen Jurgensen**, the top editor since 1999, resigned, saying she regretted not finding apparent fabrications in articles by foreign correspondent **Jack Kelley**. Appointed to replace her was **Kenneth A. Paulson**, 50, executive director of the First Amendment Center and former executive editor of *Florida Today* and the Gannett newspapers in Westchester County, New York. A *USA Today* investigation disclosed that Kelley, who reported from Cuba, Russia, Haiti, Pakistan, Egypt, Israel and other points during 22 years with the paper, fabricated portions of at least 20 dispatches and lifted more than 100 passages from other news organizations without credit. Kelley



resigned under pressure in January. Jurgensen, 55, who had worked for *USA Today* since it started in 1982, said in a statement: "Like all of us who worked with Jack Kelley, I wish we had caught him far sooner than we did." **John Hillkirk**, managing editor of the paper's Money section, was appointed executive editor, succeeding **Brian Gallagher**, who returned to editorial page editor. **Jim Henderson**, deputy managing editor of the Money section, replaced Hillkirk. **Hal Ritter**, managing editor for news, resigned, saying: "I don't think anyone could possibly be more upset about the Kelley mess than I am." He was succeeded by **Carol Stevens**, editor of the editorial page.

NEW YORK: Tom Brokaw will leave his job as anchor and editor of NBC's "Nightly News" on Dec. 1, the network announced in April. Brokaw, 64, decided last year to hand over his assignment to **Brian Williams** after the November presidential election. An OPC member, Brokaw has been the NBC anchor for 21 years. In May he received a Peabody Award for a special that looked into the University of Michigan's affirmative action policies. Overseas broadcasters ZDF German TV, Asahi TV of Japan and BBC America were among 2004 Peabody winners.

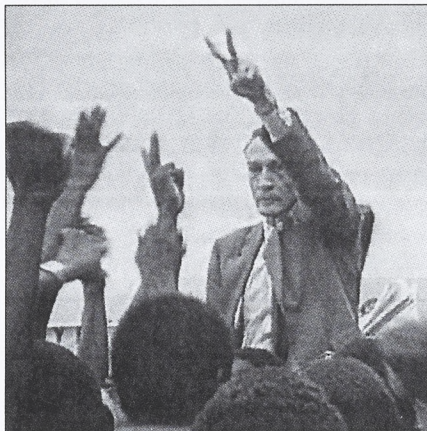


Matt Davies cartoon

International work was included in Pulitzer Prizes announced in April. **Anthony Shadid**, 35, of *The Washington Post* won the international reporting prize for his dispatches from Iraq. The editorial cartooning award went to **Matt Davies**, 37, of *The Journal News*, White Plains, N.Y., whose work included a caricature of a miniature President Bush in a mosquito-size fighter plane labeled "Iraq War" landing on a whale labeled "Terrorism." **David Leeson**, 46, and **Cheryl Diaz Meyer**, 36, of *The Dallas Morning News* won the breaking news Pulitzer for their Iraq war photographs. The feature photography award went to **Carolyn Cole**, 42, of *The Los Angeles Times* for her photos of the siege of Monrovia. **William Taubman**, 62, a political science professor at Amherst College, won the biography prize with his "Khrushchev: The Man and His Era." **Anne Applebaum**, 39, a *Washington Post* columnist and a member of the paper's editorial board, received the general non-fiction prize with "Gulag: A History," an account of the development of Soviet concentration camps. **Michael D. Sallah**,

Mitch Weiss and **Joe Mahr** of *The Blade*, Toledo, Ohio, won the investigative reporting award with a series of articles on Vietnam War atrocities allegedly committed by Tiger Force, a U.S. Army unit. The drama Pulitzer went to **Doug Wright**, 41, for his play, "I Am My Own Wife," about Charlotte von Mahlsdorf, an East German transvestite who survived Nazi and Communist regimes and was an informer for Stasi, East Germany's secret police.

Jean Léopold Dominique, a Haitian radio broadcaster who was shot dead along with his guard/driver in 2000, is the subject of a documentary film that opened in New York and Los Angeles in April. The broadcaster and his guard were killed by two gunmen when they arrived at Radio Haiti Inter in Port-au-Prince for Dominique's 7 a.m. broadcast (May 2000 *Bulletin*). His murder remains unsolved. Dominique was a French-educated agronomist before he became owner of Radio Haiti Inter that broadcast



Dominique returning from exile in 1986
(Continued on Page 10)

Welcome to Our New Members

Thomas Crampton
Reporter
The New York Times
active resident

Lonnie Isabel
Assistant Managing Editor
Newsday
active resident

Kathy Ryan
Photo Editor
The New York Times Magazine
active resident

Maria Sanminiatielli
Editor, National Desk
Associated Press
active resident

Yilu Zhao
Freelance Journalist
active resident – young

ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE
George Bookman, Chair
David Fondiller
Elinor Griest
Marshall Loeb

PEOPLE

(Continued from Page 9)

reports on political and human rights issues. He was exiled twice from Haiti, first by former President for Life Jean-Claude Papa Doc Duvalier and then in 1991 by the military regime that ousted his friend, President Jean Bertrand Aristide. During the latter exile, **Jonathan Demme**, an Academy Award-winning director, started filming interviews that became the documentary titled "The Agronomist."

On Christmas Day 2002, a gunman tried unsuccessfully to assassinate Dominique's wife, Michèle Montas, who now works at the United Nations. **David Gonzalez** of *The New York Times* reported that she "is in the [film's] most riveting scene. One month after the assassination she returns to the air, delivering a statement that blends tropical magic realism with defiance worthy of the French Resistance. Jean Dominique, she explained, never died, thanks to a magic spell that rendered him invisible to his would-be killers."

Bill O'Reilly, who anchors the Fox News program "The O'Reilly Factor," took exception to **Andy Rooney's** comments on CBS News' "Sixty Minutes" regarding Mel Gibson's movie "The Passion of the Christ." Pointing out that Rooney is 85, O'Reilly said "elderly people can say crazy things" and suggested it was time for Rooney to retire. Rooney, an OPC member, shot back on his program: "That wasn't nice, Bill. I didn't get old on purpose, it just happened. If you're lucky, it could happen to you."

Frank Bruni, 39, *The New York Times* Rome bureau chief, will become the newspaper's restaurant critic June 1. After working for the *New York Post* and *The Detroit Free Press*, Bruni joined *The Times* in 1995 as a Metro section reporter. Later he reported from San Francisco and Washington, and in 2002 was posted to Rome.

After retiring as executive editor of *The New York Times*, **Abe Rosenthal** wrote a weekly column for New York's *Daily News*, a paper with a more plebeian readership than *The Times*. The *Daily News* disclosed in April that he has left the paper, but it still quotes him. Calling him its former columnist, the *Daily News* quoted his reaction to Oliver Stone's new

HBO documentary about Fidel Castro: "Mr. Stone is whitewashing...I suppose he visited the country, but he presents the results as if he never saw the Castro gulag. He should be ashamed."

The Spanish-language daily *Noticias del Mundo*, owned by the Rev. **Sun Myung Moon**, leader of the Unification Church, published its last edition on April 30. Closing of the Long Island-based newspaper was a part of restructuring Moon's News World Communications, spokeswoman **Diana Banister** said. Thirty-eight jobs were lost, New York's *Daily News* reported.

STANFORD, California: OPC member **Eric Weiner**, Tokyo bureau chief for National Public Radio and formerly its Jerusalem correspondent, now is on a Knight Fellowship at Stanford University.

TOKYO: Two of our reciprocal clubs have improved their finances. The Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan reported a revenue surplus of ¥14.5 million (about \$134,000) through last November compared with a deficit of ¥2.2 million (about \$20,300) a year earlier. Club treasurer **George Baumgartner** said that the swing into black ink resulted largely from cost controls during the slow summer months. Club membership includes about 400 journalists and 1,700 business and PR people.

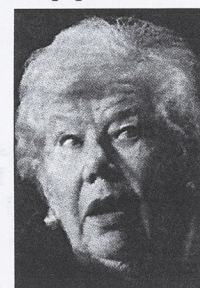
The Foreign Correspondents' Club of Hong Kong saw its deficit approach 1.5 million Hong Kong dollars (about U.S.\$192,300) last year, but ended its fiscal year this spring with a deficit of less than 500,000 HK dollars (about U.S.\$64,100). Club President **Kate Pound Dawson** blamed the deficit on the SARS "outbreak combined with a generally lousy economy in Hong Kong last year." Club membership totals about 1,600 after sinking below 1,500 last year.

IN MEMORY

Philip Hamburger, 89, who wrote domestic and overseas articles for *The New Yorker* during more than six decades, died April 23 of cardiac arrest in a New York hospital. Hamburger joined *The New Yorker* in 1939 when the magazine was 15 years old and he was 25. From 1941-1943, he worked for the U.S. Office of War Information, and during the remainder of World War II filed dispatches from Italy and Germany to *The*

New Yorker. In 1948, he went to South America to track down rumors that Hitler was not dead but hiding in Argentina. He found no truth in the rumors, but wrote a long article from Buenos Aires about meeting Eva Perón: "There outside, surrounded by a hushed group of officials, was Señora Perón, in a fluffy pink dress with a large bustle...She began to shake hands with us, one by one. Her expression never changed. She held out her hand to me, and I took it for an instant. It was stone cold."

Mary McGrory: "I should confess that I always felt a little sorry for people who didn't work for newspapers." That's what the longtime Washington columnist said in 1998 when she accepted the National Press Club's Fourth Estate Award. Although based in Washington for half a century, McGrory's reporting and commentaries reached far beyond the Beltway. *The New York Times* wrote: "The Vietnam War was her great passion, and it framed her coverage of the 1968 presidential campaign." Six years ago when she was nearly 80, Mary went to Northern Ireland to write about the promise of a peace process. In March 2003, she wrote her last columns for *The Washington Post*, and they dealt with her opposition to the Iraq War. Mary suffered a stroke that month. She did not resume her column and died April 21 in a Washington hospital at age 85. McGrory worked for *The Washington Star* from 1947 until it closed in 1981 when she moved to *The Washington Post*. She won a 1975 Pulitzer Prize for her columns on Watergate.



Mary McGrory

Carlos Cisneros, 39, a multi-millionaire Venezuelan and former Latin American media executive, died April 10 in his Beverly Hills, California, mansion. *The New York Post* reported that Cisneros, "said to be despondent over a business deal gone awry," committed suicide by overdosing on prescription pills. He headed Miami-based Cisneros Television Group, an organization of a dozen Latin American pay TV channels that merged in 2000 with another media company, El Sitio. **Roberto Vivo-Chaneton**, El Sitio's chairman, became

head of the new company, and Cisneros resigned and moved to Los Angeles. The *Post* quoted a friend of Cisneros who said something went wrong with his company's sale and Cisneros "was very upset. There was a lot of money involved." Cisneros' father, also named Carlos, drowned 21 years ago while saving his son, then 17, after he got caught in an undercurrent in a lake in southeastern Venezuela. The family holds the Coca-Cola franchise throughout Latin America.

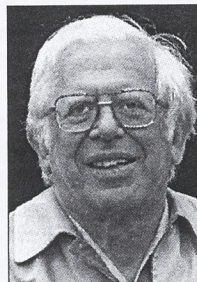
◆
Jack P. Smith, 58, a former ABC News correspondent in Paris and Washington, died of cancer April 7 in a Greenbrae, California, hospital. Smith joined ABC News in 1976 and was assigned to Paris. Conversant in French, German and Danish, he covered the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, collapse of Soviet communism, the Iran-Contra affair, the White House and the State Department, and he climbed Mount Everest with a Canadian team. After leaving ABC in 2001, Smith was host on A&E Biography programs and worked on documentaries for the Discovery Channel. For the Learning Channel, he worked on the award-winning series "Vietnam: The Soldier's Story" that included his own experiences as a U.S. Army soldier in Vietnam, where he won a Bronze Star for valor and a Purple Heart for wounds. He was born in Paris, son of the late **Howard K. Smith**, an ABC News anchorman, and grew up in London and Washington.

◆
James N. Wallace, 76, a correspondent in Europe, Middle East, Latin America and Asia and winner of a 1974 OPC citation, died in a Fairfax, Virginia, hospital April 5 after a heart attack. From 1953-1963, he was a *Wall Street Journal* correspondent in the United States, London, Bonn, Beirut, Rio de Janeiro and Havana, where Fidel Castro's military expelled him. Wallace joined *U.S. News & World Report* in 1963, covering the Vietnam War and becoming the magazine's chief Far East correspondent. He opened bureaus in Moscow and Beijing and traveled frequently on assignments to Central America. In 1983, he became a *U.S. News* senior editor for international affairs in Washington, retiring in 1992.

◆
Alan Levy, 72, founding editor-in-chief of the weekly English-language *Prague Post* whose OPC membership

goes back to the 1980s when he lived in Austria, died of cancer in Prague April 2. A native New Yorker, Levy first worked seven years as a reporter for Kentucky's *Louisville Courier-Journal*, winning *The New Republic's* 1957 Younger Writer Award for coverage of the Cuban Revolution. Starting in 1960, he freelanced in New York, placing four articles in *Life* magazine in one year.

He went to Prague on an assignment in 1967 and was there when Soviet-led Warsaw Pact forces put down the 1968 Prague Spring uprising. The restored Communist government declared him persona non grata in 1971, and he and his family moved to Vienna, where they lived for 20 years while he wrote for *The International Herald Tribune*, *The New York Sunday Times*, *Reader's Digest*, *Cosmopolitan* and other publications. He returned to Prague in 1990 and was asked to help start *The Post*. His column, "Prague Profile," appeared 549 times. Levy wrote about 20 books including "Rowboat to Prague" [1972] and biographies of the tenor Jan Peerce, actress Sophia Loren, poets Ezra Pound and W. H. Auden, Nazi-hunter Simon Wiesenthal and novelist Vladimir Nabokov.



Alan Levy

◆
Former OPC member **Murray J. Gart**, 79, who managed *Time* magazine's foreign and domestic correspondents before becoming the last editor of *The Washington Star*, died March 31 at his home in Mitchellville, Maryland, of complications from heart surgery. In 1949 after U.S. Army service during World War II and earning an economics degree at Northeastern University, Gart went to work for *The Honolulu Star-Bulletin*. He joined *Time* in 1955. As chief of the Time-Life News Service, he oversaw 100 correspondents around the world during

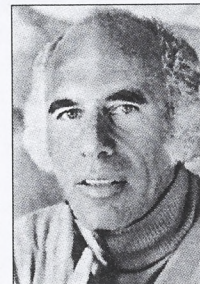


Murray Gart with Yasser Arafat

the Vietnam War, Watergate, Middle East turbulence and the nuclear-arms race. **Strobe Talbott**, whom Gart appointed *Time's* East European correspondent and who now is president of the Brookings Institute, described Gart as "sort of like a four-star general in charge of a global theater of operations." Gart became editor of *The Washington Star* in 1978 shortly after Time Inc. bought the afternoon daily for \$20 million. He remained with *The Star* until it closed in 1981.

◆
John B. Evans, 66, a former executive in **Rupert Murdoch's** News Corporation, died of congestive heart failure March 28 at his home in Annandale, New Jersey. Born in Wales and raised in England, Evans began his media career in the early 1970s with the *Village Voice* and was its publisher in 1977 when Murdoch bought the New York weekly. In 1985 Evans was named executive vice president and later president of Murdoch Magazines that included *The Star* and *New Woman* and later added *Elle*, *Seventeen*, *TV Guide* and *Mirabella*. When the magazine group was sold in 1990, Evans moved to London to run the business operations of Murdoch's newspapers, including *The Times*, *The Sunday Times* and *The Sun*. Evans returned to the United States in 1992 and formed News Electronic Data Inc., a News Corporation subsidiary that brought all of Murdoch's newspapers online. With several partners, Evans bought News Electronic and renamed it *BizTravel.com*. **Martin Singerman**, former president and publisher of the *New York Post* and a former News Corporations director, told *The New York Times*: "As far as I know, he was the first person in print publishing that understood what was happening with the internet and publishing."

◆
John Sack, 74, a magazine writer and author who covered wars from Korea to Iraq, died March 27 in San Francisco of complications from prostrate cancer. After graduating from Harvard in 1951, Sack joined the U.S. Army and was a *Pacific Stars & Stripes* combat correspondent during the Korean War. After Korea, he joined



John Sack in 1978

(Continued on Page 12)

COVERING THE COVERAGE

(Continued from Page 3)

contract with Bell Pottinger, a British public relations firm, to help promote the establishment of democracy in Iraq. The firm is providing TV and radio commercials to explain to Iraqis how and why the United States will hand over sovereignty to an interim Iraqi government in June. Michael Pierson, the occupation's communications planner, told *The New York Times* the commercials carry a "message of participation in the democratic process, and the hope for the future that democracy brings to Iraq." But Harry C. Boyte, a senior fellow at the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota, said learning about democracy through advertising could make it seem like a product that could be blamed or abandoned if things do not go well.

March 31

Khawar Mehdi Rizvi, a Pakistani journalist arrested in December for traveling to the southwestern city of Quetta near the Afghan border without government permission, was released on bail. Two French journalists reporting for the weekly *L'Express* on Taliban training were arrested with him, sentenced to seven days in jail, fined \$3,500 each and released (March *Bulletin*). Rizvi is charged with sedition and conspiracy and faces a possible life sentence.

PEOPLE

(Continued from Page 11)

CBS News as a writer, producer and correspondent. He left the network in 1966 to cover the Vietnam War for *Esquire*, contributing to that magazine until his death. He covered wars in Yugoslavia, Afghanistan and Iraq. He also was a *Playboy* editor, a producer for KCBS-TV in Los Angeles and a writer for the television show "That's Incredible." In his 1967 book "M," Sack followed an infantry company from its training at Fort Dix, New Jersey, to battle in Vietnam. His other books included "Lieutenant Calley: His Own Story;" "An Eye for an Eye," an account of what he described as the persecution of Germans by Polish Communist Jews in post-World War II internment camps; and his autobiography "Fingerprint."

During the Korean War, Sack sometimes accompanied a United Press correspondent to learn his interviewing



The New York Times defended publishing this graphic image from the Falluja attack.

April 1

Some U.S. newspapers published photos of the mutilated bodies of four American private security workers who were ambushed and burned to death in Falluja, Iraq. Several TV networks showed more restraint. *The New York Times* published a color photo on page one of burned bodies hanging from a bridge, photographed by Khalid Mohammed of AP. Bill Keller, *The Times* executive editor, explained: "On the one hand, you can't shy away from the news, and the news in this case is the indignities visited upon the victims and the jubilation of the crowd. At the same time you have to be mindful of the pain these pictures would cause to families and the potential revulsion of readers and children, who are exposed to this over their breakfast table."

For their front pages, *USA Today* and *The Washington Post* selected a Reuters

techniques. Years later, Sack told that correspondent, now the *Bulletin's* "People" columnist: "You did it all wrong. You were interviewing soldiers who had just come out of battle. Those guys wanted to talk about what they had just been through. But you would start out by asking them for the names of their parents, how to spell those names, where they came from and the names of their hometown newspapers. Those guys thought you didn't much care about the war."

CORRECTION: OPC member Frank Gómez points out that the "People" column in referring to Spanish journalists has mistranslated the word *presentadores* into "presenters." In an E-mail, Frank wrote: "This is a bad translation from the Spanish 'presentadores,' which in English is translated as 'anchors' or 'news anchors'."

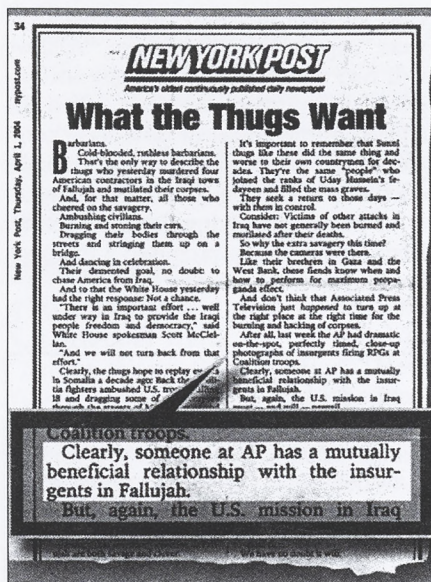
color photo taken by Ali Jasim showing Iraqis cheering and beating two corpses with shoes. *The New York Sun* used a picture of the burned bodies. On the day the news broke, the *New York Daily News* printed photos of the victims' burning car and jeering Iraqis but showing no bodies. Four days later on its Sunday Opinions page, the *Daily News* published photos of charred bodies hanging from a bridge

CNN, Fox News and NBC News avoided the most graphic images. "I think we can convey the horror of this despicable act while being sensitive to our viewers," said Steve Capus, executive vice president of NBC Nightly News. CBS News and ABC News broadcast graphic footage after anchors Dan Rather and Peter Jennings warned viewers of what was coming. Jim Murphy, executive producer of CBS Evening News, commented: "CNN showed so much restraint it wasn't really covering the story."

Kelly Smith Tunney, AP vice president and director of corporate communications, fired back after the *New York Post* implied in an editorial that the wire service was in cahoots with Iraqi insurgents who burned and mutilated four American security workers in Falluja. The editorial said in part: "And don't think that Associated Press Television just happened to turn up at the right place at the right time for the burning and hacking of corpses. After all, last week the AP had dramatic on-the-spot, perfectly-timed, close-up photographs of insurgents firing RPGs at Coalition troops. Clearly, someone at AP had a mutually beneficial relationship with the insurgents in Fallujah." OPC member Tunney called the *Post* editorial "an outrage and a damaging and gratuitous statement that is not only wrong, but does a grave disservice to the brave men and women who have risked their lives covering this story.... We are dismayed that the *New York Post* seems to have forgotten the role of the free and independent press."

April 7

Among some 40 civilians kidnapped by Iraqi insurgents during April were a number of correspondents from around the world. Some of them were held for a few hours, others for days or weeks. They included Soichiro Koriyama, 32, a freelance photojournalist working for Japan's weekly *Asahi*; correspondent Izan Cericx of the French TV channel Canal Plus, who was later released, and his cameraman, Alexandre Jourdanov, 45;



New York Post editorial

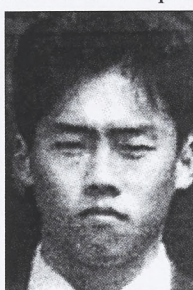
freelance correspondent Orly Halpern, who files for the *San Francisco Chronicle* and was held captive several hours; two *New York Times* correspondents whose names were not disclosed and two of their Iraqi staff, all released after three hours. The Mujahedeen Brigades said they would kill Koriyama by burning him alive along with two Japanese kidnapped with him unless Japan withdrew its 550 troops from Iraq.

April 11

Michal Kubal and Petr Klima, correspondents for Czech Television, and Vit Pohanka, a Czech Radio correspondent, were captured by armed men who hijacked their taxi near Falluja. The journalists were freed five days later.

April 15

One week after he was kidnapped, Iraqi insurgents released photojournalist Soichiro Koriyama in a Baghdad mosque. On the same day, another Japanese journalist, freelancer Junpei Yasuda, 30, went missing but later was released. Koriyama was freed along with two other Japanese taken hostage with him: a 34-year-old woman aid worker, and an 18-year-old high school graduate who went to Iraq to study the possible effects of depleted uranium ammunition. They were unharmed, although the hostage-takers had threatened to kill them.



Soichiro Koriyama

April 16

Malik Tasaddaq, 28, was arrested in

Pakistan's Punjab province on suspicion that he was involved in the 2002 abduction and murder of reporter Daniel Pearl. The government said Tasaddaq was a member of Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, an outlawed Sunni Muslim group blamed for attacks on minority Shiites.

April 18

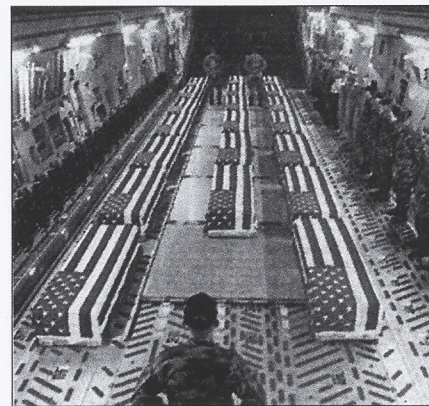
Photojournalist Soichiro Koriyama and the two Japanese kidnapped with him were criticized after they returned to Japan. At Tokyo International Airport, a hand-written sign read: "You got what you deserve!" Someone wrote on a Web site "You are Japan's shame." Japanese government spokesman Yasuo Fukuda said of the captives: "They may have gone on their own but they must consider how many people they caused trouble to because of their action." When two of the former hostages said they wanted to return to Iraq, Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi urged them "to have some sense. Many government officials made efforts to rescue them, without even eating and sleeping, and they are still saying this sort of thing?"

But U.S. Secretary of State praised the hostages, saying: "Well, everybody should understand the risk they are taking by going into dangerous areas....And so I'm pleased that these Japanese citizens were willing to put themselves at risk for a greater good, for a better purpose." The three former hostages were billed about \$7,000 each for their air fare home and miscellaneous expenses. The Japanese government said they were billed in the same manner as other Japanese civilians who are transported home after getting into trouble abroad. The government had advised citizens not to travel to Iraq.

The New York Times reported that nearly all journalists working for Japan's major media left Iraq on a government-chartered plane after the kidnappings "leaving Japan's most important military mission since the end of World War II essentially ignored by the news media."

April 23

Bill Keller, executive editor of *The New York Times*: "We were not aware at all that these photos were being taken." Neither were executives at most news organizations. But 361 color photos of flag-draped coffins of U.S. troops killed in Iraq suddenly appeared on the Memory Hole Web site www.thememoryhole.org. Newspapers and TV channels quickly published the images. The Pentagon bans publication of photos related to dead troops. The pictures were



Flag-draped coffins

taken for historical purposes, the Pentagon said, but their release was a mistake. The U.S. Air Force Mobility Command released the photos to Russ Kick, who operates the Web site and who filed a Freedom of Information Act request for the photos. Trent Duffy, a White House spokesman, defended the ban: "We must pay attention to the privacy and to the sensitivity of the families of the fallen."

But some papers disagreed with the policy. *The New York Times*: "Critics have charged that the administration is seeking to keep unwelcome images of the war's human cost away from the public." *The New York Daily News*: "Bush administration officials have said privately they worry such grim images would undermine public support for an increasingly controversial war in an election year." *The Times* said American correspondents were banned from taking battle-related photos during World War I, but two years into World War II the U.S. government removed the lens cover. Susan Moeller, a journalism professor at the University of Maryland, commented: "Up until that time, Americans had been supporting the war on imagination alone. The photographs helped to make the rhetoric and the goals tangible. The military, in this instance, wanted the American public to be in the same war they were in."

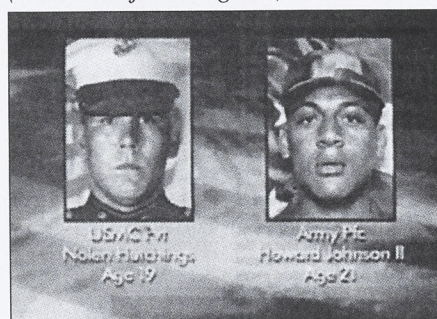
April 30

Eight ABC-affiliated TV stations run by Sinclair Broadcast Group refused to carry ABC News Nightline program in which anchor Ted Koppel read the names of all 721 U.S. troops killed in Iraq up to that day and displayed their photos. Mark Hyman, Sinclair's vice president for corporate relations, told Bill Carter of *The New York Times* that Koppel's program was biased journalism motivated by an

(Continued on Page 14)

COVERING THE COVERAGE

(Continued from Page 13)



Ted Koppel's roll call

antiwar agenda, and it threatened to undermine American efforts in Iraq. Sinclair issued a statement: "While the Sinclair Broadcast Group honors the memory of the brave members of the military who have sacrificed their lives in the service of our country, we do not believe such political statements should be disguised as news content." Hyman, a conservative commentator on Sinclair newscasts, took a news crew to Iraq in February to uncover positive developments in the war. Koppel's roll call was titled, "The Fallen," and Nightline was extended 10 minutes from its usual 30 minutes to accommodate all the names. ABC defended the program: "The Nightline broadcast is an expression of respect which simply seeks to honor those who have laid down their lives for this country." Immediately after 9/11, Sinclair ordered its Baltimore station to read patriotic statements supporting President Bush.

April 30-May 5

From continent to continent, newspapers published photos of Iraqi prisoners being abused by U.S. and British soldiers—naked Iraqis stacked in a pile; a female soldier grinning and pointing at the genitalia of a nude Iraqi; simulated sex acts; a prisoner standing on a box, wires attached to his hands and threatened with electrocution; a soldier urinating on a shackled and partially naked prisoner. American and British commanders are investigating the abuses, and several American GIs have been reprimanded or held for possible court martial.

First shown on CBS News 60 Minutes II, the pictures were picked up by newspapers in America, Europe and the Middle East with these comments and headlines: Martin Dunn, editorial director of New York's *Daily News*: "If we want to be more than mere propaganda sheets, then surely there is a duty to show them." Jim Preston, assistant managing editor for

photography at *The Baltimore Sun*: "Without the photos it's hard for the reader, if they hadn't seen the show, to understand what happened or what was going on." *The Wall Street Journal*: "Disgusting and depressing." Investigative reporter Seymour Hersh's *New Yorker* article on prison conditions in Iraq: "Sadistic, blatant and wanton criminal abuses." Britain's *The Guardian*: "U.S. military in torture scandal." The *London Times*: "Scandal over humiliation of Iraqi prisoners." The *Daily Mail* of London: "Tortured, abused and humiliated. The shocking pictures that show how U.S. soldiers treated Iraqi prisoners in Saddam's jail." London's *Daily Mirror* on the U.S. soldiers: "TORTURED U.S. horrified by footage of Iraq prisoners being abused." The *Mirror* on the British soldiers: "VILE...but this time it's a British soldier degrading an Iraqi." Italy's *La Repubblica* used one photo to illustrate a front-page editorial critical of the U.S.-led war. *Akhbar el-Yom*, an Egyptian paper: "The Scandal." Egypt's *Al-Wafd*: "The Shame!" The Middle East Al-Jazeera network: the American soldiers were "unethical and inhuman."



British newspapers

The New York Times delayed publishing the photos by one day. Executive editor Bill Keller explained they held off because it "could not, in the time available, ascertain their authenticity." *USA Today* and the *New York Post* did not print the pictures. Col Allan, the *Post's* editor-in-chief: "If there is a handful of U.S. soldiers who've mistreated prisoners, I don't think that should be allowed to reflect poorly on the 140,000 men and women over their who are risking their lives and doing a good job."

President Bush: "I shared a deep disgust that those prisoners were treated the way they were treated. Their treatment does not reflect the nature of the American people." In a damage-control move, Bush agreed to be interviewed on two Arabic-language TV networks, the U.S. government-funded Al Hurra and Dubai-based Al Arabiya. He told Middle

East viewers that they and Americans were "appalled" by the pictures, "And we will find the truth, we will fully investigate." Prime Minister Blair called the alleged mistreatment of prisoners "completely and utterly unacceptable." Despite questions in London about the authenticity of photos involving British soldiers, Blair's government promised a thorough investigation.

OPC Website

They say the eyes are a window into the soul. An early 21st century update on that old saw might go something like this: your website is a bullhorn for your values.

With that in mind, the Overseas Press Club re-launched its own portal in April in the hope that we could create a more dynamic venue to showcase the OPC's mission and values.

"Our interest in redesigning our website was this: at a time when international events are the center of the news, the OPC has never been more relevant, and it was our goal to make the Club's site the most useful resource for our members around the world," OPC President Alexis Gelber wrote in a piece published when the new site went live in April.

The redesign effort, led by board member Michael Moran of MSNBC.com, aimed at providing a simple and elegant vehicle for presenting the results of annual OPC awards, reports on events and board decisions and information on membership. New features include bios of the Board of Governors, password-protected areas where the monthly *Bulletin* and annual *Dateline* editions are available, and a series of original reports on press freedom, issues in journalism ("Issues") and the particular problems of working journalists overseas ("In the field").

The site is an evolutionary project, so expect to see new features in the future. Members with comments about the site and those interested in contributing "In the field" or "Issues" pieces can email Moran at admin@opcofamerica.org

NEW BOOKS

(Continued from Page 12)

Handbook" [Dorling Kindersley]. Illustrated with photographs and graphics, the book offers a detailed introduction to all Shakespeare's plays and poetry and is aimed at students and theater lovers alike.

MIDDLE EAST

COLUMNS and essays written by **Michael Kelly** are collected in "Things Worth Fighting For" [New York: Penguin Press]. Kelly, 46, editor-at-large for *The Atlantic Monthly* and a *Washington Post* syndicated columnist, was killed last year when his Humvee came under Iraqi gunfire and rolled into a



Michael Kelly

canal south of Baghdad airport, trapping him under water (May 2003 *Bulletin*). He was the first American correspondent killed in the war. His book was promoted in readings at New York and Washington bookstores by **Dan Rather**, **Tina Brown**, **Howell Raines**, **Hendrik Hertzberg**, **Maureen Dowd**, **Bob Woodward** and **Ted Koppel**, who wrote the book's introduction.

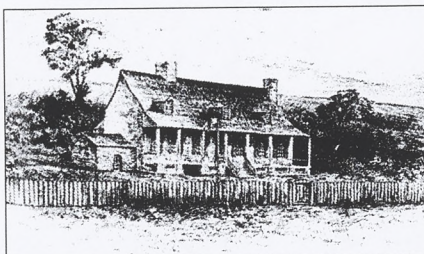
RICK Atkinson, a *Washington Post* correspondent, wrote a book on the West Point class of 1966, including those who were sent to Vietnam, and a book on Desert Storm that freed Kuwait from Iraqi occupation. Atkinson was covering the U.S. Army's advance on Baghdad last year when he learned that he had won a Pulitzer Prize for "An Army at Dawn," his history of the North African campaign in World War II. Now "In the Company of Soldiers: A Chronicle of Combat" [New York: Henry Holt], Atkinson deals with the 101st U.S. Airborne Division's campaign in the Iraqi war and Washington's related policies. He writes that soldiers of the 101st "took hardship in stride and refused to let bloodlust, cynicism or other despoilers of good armies cheat them of their battle honors. They were better than the cause they served, which would soon be tarnished by revelations that the *casus belli*—that Iraq posed an imminent, existential danger to America and its allies—was inflated and perhaps fraudulent. If the war's predicate was phony, it cheapened the sacrifices of

the dead and living alike." Commenting on that conclusion, Christopher Dickey, *Newsweek's* Paris bureau chief and an OPC member, wrote in a *New York Times* review: "A grim conclusion to a fine book, and no, the end is not in sight."

NORTH AMERICA

SHIRLEY Christian spent more than 20 years reporting from Latin America, New York and Washington for *The New York Times*, *The Miami Herald* and AP. Her coverage of Central American wars won a 1981 Pulitzer Prize. She received a George Polk award for foreign reporting in 1980 and an OPC citation for magazine writing in 1982. She is the author of "Nicaragua: Revolution in the Family." In her latest book, this former foreign correspondent who was born in Kansas and now lives there, writes about three generations of a family that helped pioneer her home neighborhood.

"Before Lewis and Clark: The Story



Chouteau family's first home and business headquarters in St. Louis, 1764.

of the Chouteaus, the French Dynasty That Ruled America's Frontier" [New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux], was published to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the start of the Lewis and Clark expedition, 1804-1806. The book tells the story of three generations of the Chouteaus, who were French fur traders. They established the first white settlements that became St. Louis and Kansas City and left their imprint on the future states of Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Nebraska, the Dakotas, Wyoming and Montana. The Chouteaus built fortunes as land speculators, financiers, Indian agents and fur traders in partnership with John Jacob Astor.

Before starting their exploration of the Louisiana Purchase territory that doubled the size of the United States, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark spent the winter in St. Louis. The Chouteaus wine and dined them and shared their knowledge of the region's Indians, rivers, and flora and fauna. Christian writes: "Without the

Chouteaus, without their business acumen and deep understanding of the Indians, the Louisiana Purchase territory would have been a different place. The Chouteaus...worked to create an environment where Indians generally respected white men and believed they could be trusted."

In researching the book, Shirley, whose Mid-Western roots include undergraduate studies at Pittsburg State University in Kansas before she headed east into big-time journalism, spent months at the Missouri Historical Society in St. Louis, going through 60 plus boxes of Chouteau family papers, portraits and photographs; the library of the University of Missouri at Kansas City; and the White Hair Memorial in Osage County, Oklahoma.

JULIA Preston, a former OPC member, and **Samuel Dillon**, were *New York Times* correspondents in Mexico City from 1995-2000. They describe the collapse of Mexico's one-party rule in "Opening Mexico: The Making of a Democracy" [Farrar, Straus and Giroux]. A review of the book described the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) that ruled Mexico for seven decades as "one of the 20th century most durable and, during most of the era of one-party rule, one of its most successful dictatorships." The review, written by **Walter Russell Mead**, a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, continued: "The story of how a perfect dictatorship came unglued is one of the most fascinating stories of our time, and the authors tell their story well. The voices of intellectuals, Indians, political dissidents, businessmen and ordinary Mexican citizens fill this densely researched and clearly written book."



Julia Preston and Samuel Dillon

New Books

GLOBAL

PHOTOGRAPHER George (Slim) Aarons writes in "Slim Aarons: Once Upon a Time" [New York: Abrams]: "During World War II, I was a combat photographer for [the GI-produced] *Yank* magazine, and having survived that experience a little battered but all in one piece, I felt I owed myself some easy, luxurious living to make up for the years I had spent sleeping on the ground in the mud, being shot at and bombed....So when I was asked to hot-foot it to Korea to cover the war there, I let it be known that the only beach I was interested in landing on was one decorated with beautiful girls tanning in a tranquil sun. Beaches were made for



Slim Aarons in Athens, circa 1955
strolling and lying on, not for invading."

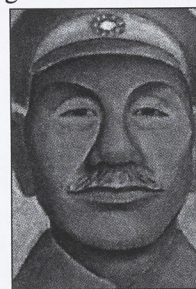
Since the war, OPC member Aarons has photographed the rich and famous where they play, work and live. He's handled assignments for *Life*, *Look*, *Holiday*, *Travel & Leisure*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *Vogue*, and *Town & Country*. His coffee-table book contains 250 photographs including a debutante cotillion in Boston, the Hearst family at home, Henry Wallace on his farm. T. S. Eliot in the Bahamas, Noel Coward in Jamaica, Henry Fonda on Midway Island, Bertrand Russell at home in Wales, Prince Ranier III and family in Monaco, and Tyrone Power and wife Linda Christians in Rome.

The caption under a photo of Aarons near the Acropolis does not identify him, saying only, "A funny shot for my daughter back home." Aarons told the *Bulletin*: "I don't like to publish pictures of myself, but they wanted one of me in the book, so I agreed so long as I was not named in the caption."

ASIA

In 1943 two senior U.S. officers who knew Chiang Kai-shek gave sharply conflicting descriptions of Nationalist China's World War II leader. General Claire Chennault told President Roosevelt: "I think the generalissimo is one of the two or three great military and political leaders in the world today." General Joseph Stillwell wrote in a letter to his wife after returning to China from Washington: "Back to find Chiang same as ever—a grasping, bigoted, ungrateful little rattlesnake." Journalist **Jonathan Fenby** attempts to assess Chiang's character and motivations in "Chiang Kai-

shek: China's Generalissimo and the Nation He Lost" [New York: Carroll & Graf]. It's a challenging task as **Jonathan Spence** explained in a *New York Times* review. Spence, a Yale University professor of modern Chinese history, wrote: "Chiang himself left no undocumented paper trail: there are few casual (let alone intimate)



YISHAI MINKIN, THE NEW YORK TIMES

Chiang Kai-shek letters; his 'diaries' tend to be stilted and formulaic, while his political writings are limited in intellectual range and often ghost written....Chiang's close relatives—including [wife] Mei-ling and his son (by his first marriage) Chiang Chung-kuo—remained close lipped." To draw a portrait of Chiang, Fenby searched through diplomatic documents and read press reports and the writings of Western journalists who visited China including **Vincent Sheean**, **W. H. Auden**, **Christopher Isherwood**, **Emily Hahn**, **Aldous Huxley**, **John Powell** and **Robert Capa**.

EUROPE

ALAN Riding, the Paris-based *New York Times* cultural correspondent, reported in April: "Beyond surfeits of opera and good meals, not much usually happens in my life! But I do have a book coming out this month." Riding, an OPC member, and **Leslie Dunton Downer**, a former Harvard University lecturer, are authors of the "Essential Shakespeare" (Continued on Page 15)

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to All
OPC Award
Winners**

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